

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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R 161925Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3392

INFO USUN NEW YORK 334

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1938

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW), PFOR, UN, EAID

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO,  
CARIBBEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND MEMBERS OF THE PARTY MET AUGUST 12 WITH CABINET OFFICERS OF THE GOTT TO DISCUSS AID TO JAMAICA AND TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR ORGANIZING A MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION. THE GOTT EXPRESSED AGREEMENT ON THE NEED FOR A LONG-RANGE, MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION TO REPLACE THE CURRENT PATTERN OF RESPONSE TO CRISES. GOTT INDICATED (INFORMALLY) THAT THEY WERE CONSIDERING TAKING THE LEAD IN ORGANIZING A MEETING OF POTENTIAL DONORS TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON THE MULTILATERAL APPROACH. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY MET AUGUST 12 IN PORT OF SPAIN WITH CABINET OFFICERS FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO DISCUSS AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN REGION. INCLUDED FROM THE GOTT WERE MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE (CHAMBERS), FINANCE (PADMORE), EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DONALDSON), WORKS, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS (MCCLEAN), PETROLEUM AND MINES (MAHABIR), UN AMBASSADOR  
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ABDULAH, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PERMANENT SECRETARY  
BALLAH, AND BARSOTTI, PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF  
FINANCE.

2. MR. CHAMBERS OPENED DISCUSSIONS WITH QUESTIONS ON THE  
CURRENT STATUS OF IMF AND USAID AGREEMENTS WITH JAMAICA AND  
ON WHETHER ANY PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON A MULTILATERAL

PROGRAM FOR JAMAICA. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH SECRETARY VANCE THEY HAD EXPECTED THAT THE US WOULD COME UP WITH A CONSORTIUM PROPOSAL. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR VALDEZ EXPLAINED CURRENT STATUS OF U.S. AID TO JAMAICA AND NOTED WE ARE CONTINUING TO WORK TOWARDS THE IDEA OF A CONSORTIUM FOR AID FOR JAMAICA. HE INFORMED CHAMBERS THAT LIKELY PARTICIPANTS IN SUCH A CONSORTIUM WOULD BE VENEZUELA, CANADA, NETHERLANDS AND THE UK. MR. EINAUDI STATED THERE IS A GENERAL APPRECIATION OF THE FACT THAT JAMAICA NEEDS HELP AND THERE IS A NEED FOR A BROADER CONSORTIUM APPROACH. HE NOTED THAT U.S. THINKING IS STILL IN THE EXPLORATORY STAGE AND THIS TRIP SHOULD HELP CLARIFY OBJECTIVES.

3. AMBASSADOR YOUNG EXPLAINED THAT THE PURPOSE OF A REGIONAL CONSORTIUM WOULD NOT BE SIMPLY FOR A FEW STATES TO COME TO THE AID OF THE REST, BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED IN TERMS OF IMPROVED TRADE AND INTERCHANGE IN THE WHOLE REGION.

4. CHAMBERS NOTED THAT PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND OTHER U.S. REPRESENTATIVES HAD CENTERED ONLY ON JAMAICA. HE WONDERED WHETHER THE NEW APPROACH WAS INTENDED TO GO FURTHER. U.S. PARTICIPANTS EXPLAINED THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN A POLICY THAT WILL INVOLVE A BROAD REGIONAL EFFORT, ON THE DONOR AND RECIPIENT SIDES. IN ADDITION WE WANT A CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT PROGRAM AND WE

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WISH TO AVOID THE IMPROVISATIONS OF THE PAST.

5. AMBASSADOR YOUNG STATED THAT IN OUR VIEW IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THE NEW APPROACH TO CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION BOTH IDEOLOGICALLY AND FINANCIALLY. HE STATED THAT IN VIEW OF THE HEAVY DEMANDS ON THE U.S. FOR AID, WE FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT FOR OTHERS TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED.

6. MR. PADMORE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE PROPOSALS BEING DISCUSSED NOW SHOULD HAVE BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT EARLIER. HE NOTED THAT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HAD RESPONDED ALONE IN SUBSTANTIAL TERMS (\$600 MILLION T/T) TO JAMAICA. IT IS BEYOND ITS CAPACITY TO CARRY ON SUCH A PROGRAM. HE WANTED TO KNOW HOW MUCH THE U.S. WOULD PROVIDE, AND HOPED THAT WE COULD MATCH AS MUCH OF IT AS POSSIBLE. GOTT REPRESENTATIVES ALSO STATED THAT IN ADDITION TO ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA, THEY HAVE ALSO HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH GUYANA ABOUT A PROPOSED ASSISTANCE OF \$ T/T 100, AND WITH DOMINICA ABOUT \$ US 11 MILLION. IN THEIR VIEW, ANY CONSORTIUM IDEA WOULD HAVE TO DEVELOP IN THIS ENVIRONMENT.

7. AS DISCUSSIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PROGRAM DEVELOPED, GOTT REPRESENTATIVES INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE, FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW, A PROBLEM OF DEFINING JUST WHAT THE CARIBBEAN AREA CONSISTS OF. THEY BELIEVE THAT COSTA RICA, MEXICO, AND VENEZUELA ARE NOT PROPERLY DESCRIBED AS CARIBBEAN AND THE NEW BROADER IDEA OF WHAT CONSTITUTES A CARIBBEAN BASIN CAUSES PROBLEMS. AMBASSADOR YOUNG EXPLAINED THAT IT HELPS THE ADMINISTRATION POLITICALLY TO HAVE MEXICO AND VENEZUELA AS POTENTIAL DONORS INCLUDED IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN, AND IN ADDITION, THE INCLUSION OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS AND MULTI-RACIAL STATES ARE IMPORTANT SELLING POINTS FOR CONGRESS. WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR PARTICIPATION FROM A STATE LIKE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT IS IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE FUNDS BUT ALSO BECAUSE ITS ADVICE

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WOULD BE MORE READILY ACCEPTABLE TO THE RECIPIENT STATES.

8. IN DISCUSSING THE POSSIBLE SHAPE OF A CONSORTIUM FOR JAMAICA, THE GOTT REPRESENTATIVES STATED THEY ENVISIONED AN ARRANGEMENT SIMILAR TO THAT USED TO ASSIST THE UK, WHICH WOULD FOCUS ON BOTH BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE AND DEVELOPMENT LOANS. THEY ALSO INDICATED THAT COUNTRIES SUCH AS JAPAN AND THE FRG, WHICH HAVE SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS IN JAMAICA, SHOULD BE INCLUDED. DONALDSON NOTED THAT THIS KIND OF APPROACH, OF SITTING DOWN WITH THE POTENTIAL RECIPIENT COUNTRY, IS THE BEST APPROACH, AND THERE IS AN ENORMOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT GENERATED BY WESTERN COUNTRIES SITTING DOWN WITH JAMAICA TO DISCUSS ISSUES.

9. MR. HORMATS RAISED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT TT ATTITUDES TOWARD CLOSER CARIBBEAN COOPERATION. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK WOULD BE THE PROPER AGENCY TO ORGANIZE A MEETING TO DISCUSS CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT, DONALDSON STATED THEY DID NOT LIKE THE IDEA OF USING THE CBD, BUT THAT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WAS THINKING SERIOUSLY OF TAKING THE LEAD AND PERHAPS ORGANIZING A MEETING IN TRINIDAD. HE WOULD TALK TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND BE IN TOUCH WITH OUR AMBASSADOR.

10. DONALDSON AND THE REST AGREED THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE A CONSENSUS ON THE CONCEPT OF A MULTILATERAL APPROACH. WE SEEK THE SAME OBJECTIVES AND WE MUST WORK TOGETHER ON THE MODALITIES. ORTIZ

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009